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To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
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STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Governor's Nurse Workforce Initiative

On Wednesday, January 23, 2002, Governor Davis unveiled his 3-year, \$60 million Nurse Workforce Initiative to address California's growing nursing shortage. This initiative comes on the heels of the Administration's proposed nurse-to-patient ratios released earlier this week.

Funding for the initiative will primarily come from the Workforce Investment Act funds. Key components of the \$60 million initiative are: (1) \$24 million over three-years for 2,400 training and preceptorship positions in hospitals, community colleges or the CSU system; (2) \$24 million over three years to expand five regional workforce collaboratives to train 2,400 nurses through community colleges or the CSU system; (3) \$6 million over three years to expand the Central Valley Health Careers Training Program to train and educate an additional 300 nurses; (4) \$3 million for on-site health care facility approaches to upgrade training opportunities for certified nurse assistants and Licensed Vocational Nurses to Registered Nurses; (5) a statewide media campaign to recruit individuals to the nursing profession; (6) restoration of \$800,000 from the Registered Nurse Education Fund to provide additional financial assistance and education support for nursing students.

The Governor cited that California has 544 working nurses per 100,000 population, ranking it next to the last among the 50 states. The national average is 782 per 100,000 population.